



Leading Quality Addiction Treatment in the Northern Rockies

EXHIBIT 蒙着?
DATE 1/19/2011
HB 12

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 12

Mona L. Sumner, MHA ACATA
COO, Rimrock Foundation

Rimrock Foundation is a private, non-profit provider of treatment for substance abuse and co-occurring mental health disorders. Rimrock is Montana's oldest and largest drug and alcohol addiction treatment program, serving over 4000 patients annually in 134 beds and with a large outpatient program in a continuum of service levels.

We are pleased to rise in support of the work of the Interim committee on Law and Justice to revise the penalties for alcohol-related driving offenses.

HB 12 seeks to provide Court jurisdiction over misdemeanor crimes related to driving under the influence of alcohol or other drugs. It is crucial that judges have this extended jurisdiction, particularly those judges who are presiding over drug treatment courts. Without a year's jurisdiction, a judge cannot take advantage of the opportunity to sentence an offender into a drug treatment court because these courts need at least a year for the offender to complete all phases.

The research results are clear: the longer individuals stay in treatment for drug and alcohol problems, the better the treatment outcome. This is why drug treatment courts are so effective – they provide for a long course of treatment and probationary supervision.

We urge you to support this important change in our laws.